

**Verizon New England Inc.
d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

D.T.E. 97-88/18 Phase II

Respondent: Peter Shepherd

Title: Director

REQUEST: New England Public Communications Council, Record Request

DATED: November 14, 2001

ITEM: NEPCC-RR 2 To the extent that you can, please identify any Department orders wherein the Department has established the definition or the parameters of what constitutes a service, and that you identify them to us.

REPLY: The Department defined the term “service” in the context of establishing price floors in a series of orders issued in D.P.U. 94-185. *See* DPU 94-185-A (August 29, 1996); DPU 94-185-B (June 2, 1997); DPU 94-185-C (December 17, 1997) and DPU 94-185-D (September 1, 1998). In these orders the Department found that a rate element approach was too specific and stated that: “the term ‘service’ should be used to identify services which (1) are available for purchase by consumers or carriers, and (2) have a specific tariffed rate filed with the Department. Each price floor should be judged against an existing tariffed rate or sum of existing tariffed rates.” *DPU 98-185-A Order* at 30. The Department added that “[t]o the extent that rate elements can only be purchased collectively, such as the per message and per-minute charges incurred in the first minute of a local measured call, the proper price floor should include all charges for rate elements incurred as a result of using that particular service.” *DPU 98-185-A Order* at 30 n. 16.